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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

158
DESP. NO.

FROM : American Embassy, Tripoli

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Embassy despatch #126 of December 8, 1954.

January 11, 1955
DATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.M. Raji DATE May 4 1982

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D 1/19	INFO NEA-4 CC/R-2 OLI-6 P-1 E-5 S/MSA/REP-2
		OTHER CIA-5 USIA-10 FOA-10

SUBJECT: Further Unfavorable Publicity Against USOM/L

There is attached hereto an unofficial translation of an article entitled "An Open Letter to the Director of Point Four" which appeared in Tarablus Al-Gharb a government controlled newspaper, on January 6, 1955.

The article which is the third recent attack on Point Four charges that in the three years since the Point Four program began in Libya, its administrators have failed to provide the assistance which the American people wished Libya to receive. In questions loaded with inference it asks that the Director make a full report of the activities of his organization including the following specific points:

1. Vocational and technical training. How many Libyans have been trained and who are they? Were not some persons already trained whom LATAS claims to have trained? What are the criteria used in selecting candidates and why are not Libyans consulted on their choice? How many Libyans have applied for training and how many have been accepted? Why does not LATAS employ on its own staff some of Libyans trained during the last three years?

2. Financial administration of the Program. How much money did the American Congress appropriate for the technical assistance program in Libya? How much of this appropriation was expended for actual assistance projects and what was the technical and material benefit to the country? How much was spent for salaries, transportation, house rent and furniture of American and non-American administrators? How much was spent for office, garage and warehouse rents, for cars and fuel, and for car and equipment maintenance? What degree of control is exercised on such expenditures?

CONFIDENTIAL COMMENT: This is the third critical article published by Tarablus Al-Gharb against the United States Operations Mission in Libya during the last few weeks. Because of the detailed knowledge of the administration of the mission exhibited by the article, it has been widely rumored, and the Embassy considers it likely, that the writer is a non-American employee of LATAS.

It will be noted that the general tenor of the present article is not unfriendly but does insist upon information to which the general public has an unquestioned right. In the despatch under reference, the Embassy commented that

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critical articles of this nature can best be countered by more frequent and more effective publicity by USIS/L regarding its aims, activities and accomplishments. END CONFIDENTIAL.

For the Ambassador:

David G. Nes

David G. Nes
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

1. Translation of Article.

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Page 1 of
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 158
From Tripoli

TARABULUS AL-GHARB, January 6, 1955

From One of The People:

An Open Letter to the Director of Point Four

Sir:

Greetings and regards.

We wish this word to reach you as a greeting from us on the occasion of the New Year, five days of which only have elapsed. Please permit us to convey this greeting to you hoping that you will accept it and will endeavor to consider it in virture of your being the representative of a juridical organization for which we have full respect and from which we hope complete prosperity to our dear country. You are aware that the friendship between the Libyan people and the American people has now become very strong, and we are fully covetous for maintaining its strength. We wish to be completely frank in our following talk with you, as friendship, and loyalty thereto, make it imperative that we be very frank in all what may bring prosperity to our country and strengthen this friendship.

We know that the American people wanted us to receive from the Aid Program what its administrators here have failed to accomplish during the whole of three years. We would not have drawn your attention to this, had it not been for the fact that both time and circumstances have changed.

At this time every year the merchant, the laborer, peoples and states stand to review the accomplishments of the year. They remember what had taken place and think of what will take place and of what should take place in the light of a bygone past and a join future. We have found it necessary, and also of our duty towards friendship, frankness, and mutual and joint interests, to attempt to review with you last year's account and the accounts of the past years of the work of Point 4 in the fields of technical assistance.

It is unnecessary to state that our ignorance of the results of these years and works, as shown in the books of your accounts*, leaves to us no alternative other than reviewing our own books, as how can we see your books which we hope that they will be full of what is there and of what should be there.

The Moorish state—the proverbs are the wisdom of generations and the digest of experience—"If what you like does not take place then like what takes place." This is a justified saying with respect to the unknown fate and the Will of God but it is not justified with respect to the unexplored accounts of Point 4, its books and papers and what had happened of its own will.

We are not now claiming that we know what Point 4 is thinking about the past or what is in its mind with respect to the future of Libya. But we are like those

* Books of accounts is a literal translation--what is meant by the writer is record of accomplishments.

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who stand before the window of "The Box of the Universe" (see note page 5) and see the heroes, the glory and the courageousness in the field of battle and get shocked and disappointed with the lies and the bitterness of the imagination and of fact which the "Box" contains.

And when we review what there is inside and outside the Box and what there is in our books and the books of Point 4, we are at the same time anxious to know your opinion as to where we were correct and where we were wrong and as to what was a disappointment to all in the light of what is evidenced by bitter facts.

Many times the Point 4 and some of the other technical missions in Libya have indicated to us that the aim of their operations and projects was to help the Libyans help themselves, and that the main purpose of their presence was to render technical aid, not economic aid. We will not discuss here what has priority over the other, whether technical aid or economic aid, regardless of what was mentioned about economic aid in the recent Libyan/American Agreement.

In the event we presume that technical aid is the backbone of assistance and that the presence of the Mission is due to that aid, will you advise us what technical aid has been given during the past whole three years? And what have the Libyan people benefitted from this aid even along the lines of "helping them to help themselves"? What were the results of the thousands (of pounds) which were spent on the army of experts and technicians and on machines and equipment and otherwise?

And if training were the main purpose, the backbone and the primary objective of this aid, where are the technical and vocational training so far accomplished in the fields of education, agriculture, health, and water prospecting? And if the "absence" of technicians among Libyans, in the opinion of Point 4 and others, is the obstacle to Libyanizing the administration in that organization, what has Point 4 done during the past 3 years and what does it intend to do in the future to prepare the Libyan youth to undertake the task of technical and vocational guidance which is now being carried out by persons other than Libyans in the various sections of LATAS?

And in order to indicate by stating facts and particulars, we ask the Director and the Chiefs of the various sections of LATAS about the number of Libyans who were trained and who are being trained and who will be trained in health, agriculture, education, and prospecting for water, in Libya or abroad. We expect the Director and the said Chiefs of sections to give us an equally frank answer.

Many a time we have heard, but without being convinced and without believing, that there were persons who were trained by LATAS "experts" in the fields of industry and handicraft and in the various kinds of photography, and in painting and in printing and developing photographs. Tell us who are those persons who were trained in such things? And who is the Libyan in LATAS who can be described as having been trained who did not master his trade with success outside LATAS and before his joining of LATAS? The photographer of LATAS mastered his trade and exercised it in local photography stores since some years ago before LATAS came. Similarly is the case with the Libyan painters who are with LATAS and the other

"trainees" who were trained in leather work, pottery, carpentry, etc. in the Moslem Arts and Crafts School which existed since the Turkish era. If the case is so, are we not justified in saying about LATAS that the purpose of "training" is still, in LATAS, one of the means for publicity and which is restricted to introducing these "already trained" to Libyan public opinion? And are we not justified in stating that there are some who use the already existing qualifications of some of the Libyans to erroneously point out that these Libyans were trained by these "experts," when these Libyan youth attained the experience they already have through their own efforts and continued hard work regardless of the scarcity of the training possibilities available to them before and even after LATAS commenced its training activities.

Who is the Libyan who, after 5 years of "training," took over any one position of the positions of the technical assistants in LATAS, and out of courtesy we do not say "technicians"? And who is the Libyan who was sent abroad on a training scholarship course for a length of time sufficient enough to make of him a technician capable of undertaking technical work?

Speaking about training and how it should be, opens to us another subject which we would have liked Point 4 to have saved us the trouble of opening. We hear every now and then that in some of the sections of LATAS there is a section for training courses abroad, and in the country, which section has the necessary technical means and technical staff? Will LATAS, or that section, please outline to us the policy which is followed by this section? Does it distribute training scholarships with the knowledge of the concerned Government circles and in accordance with what is determined by these circles with respect to what the country needs of technicians in the various fields? Who determines the number of trainees in technical and vocational and other matters? Who selects the fortunate ones from among those who submit application for training? We understand that the Government approves of those who are sent for training but who is the one who selects those whose names are submitted to the Government for approval? Is there a Libyan-American committee entrusted with the task of selection before submission to the Government? Are examinations held, and selection made on the basis of success in these examinations in accordance with grade of success, ability and qualifications? Or is selection made on an individual, personal, political basis? And are those who are responsible for studying the applications, and carrying out the selection, aware of the needs of the country, and are they educationally qualified to carry out such a serious task? These questions which we are now putting forward to Point 4, we at the same time put them forward to the Libyan Ministry of Education itself, expecting to receive a reply from both circles, and also expecting that both circles take due interest in the matter for the purpose of drawing up a Libyan-American policy based on the actual needs of Libya and on the experience and knowledge of its men with respect to its needs and requirements.

If, however, Point 4 claims that the Libyan qualified to occupy such positions does not exist, in order to justify its employment of foreigners, this claim would not be logically acceptable. For, in the first place, Point 4 did not make the attempt to have Libyans occupy such positions and, in the second place, for its failure, in the event the attempt existed, either accidentally or

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intentionally.

We are putting forward the following questions before the administration of Point 4 in order that they may be studied and answered by the Director and his experts, and in order to clarify some of the question marks which have far-reaching goals--questions which none of Point 4 have so far answered.

1. What are the sums which were appropriated by the American Congress to be spent on technical aid projects in Libya since the birth of LATAS to date? What are the efforts which were made by those administrators of the Technical Aid Mission who are acquainted with conditions in Libya towards furnishing the Congress with the necessary information aiming at increasing the appropriations for aid to Libya? And what are the results of these efforts, if any?

2. How much of these funds were actually spent on technical aid projects and what are these projects in the LATAS sections of education, health, natural resources, and agriculture? What were the results of these projects during a period of 3 years, from the material and technical point of view, with respect to the farmers, and what technical and material benefits have the farmers obtained from them?

3. How much of these funds were spent up to date on cost of transportation of American administrators and technicians and on their families and on non-Americans from and to the United States or from and to places other than the United States? How much was spent on rents of their houses, cost of furniture, and cost of maintenance thereof, and how much was spent on rents of office buildings, garages, warehouses, and on the other various relative expenditure?

4. (a) How much was spent on cost of cars, mechanical equipment, fuel and maintenance of the cars and equipment thereof? What is the number of these cars, big and small? How are they used and what is the country of their origin, particularly the new German Volkeswagon?

(b) How much of these funds were spent on local purchases? And who made these purchases in local markets and under whose supervision and what is the extent of control exercised over such a kind of expenditure which requires great integrity, carefulness and saving?

5. How much of these funds were spent on salaries of non-Libyan officials and what is the number of these? How much was spent on Libyan officials and what is their number? What is the number of Libyans who hold senior administrative jobs--and we will not say technical--and we mention in particular the administration of LATAS warehouse, the responsibility for the necessary local purchases, the administration of LATAS garage and the supervision over the use of cars, and over drivers, all of whom are Libyans and therefore have a democratic right to be headed by a Libyan, especially when there are many Libyans who are able to carry out such work in virtue of the fact that they carry out this work in a very satisfactory manner in Federal and Provincial Government departments.

6. How much of these funds were spent on training efforts, the training

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Which forms the backbone of technical aid, which justifies it, and which is the first and basic step towards our being relieved of hearing the tune. There are no technicians among Libyans who can occupy technical positions?

How many of the Libyans were trained abroad and in Libya and in the four sections of LATAS, and what is the average of the training period, the longest and the shortest? And in what field is this training? On what basis, up to now, has selection been carried out, the selection of trainees, and the selection of the subjects of training? Is there a committee in which the Libyans participate or which is headed by a Libyan together with an American for the purpose of selecting trainees? Or is selection carried out by individuals according to their own integrity and taste? Does LATAS conduct examinations for those who apply for education and training scholarships and does selection take place from among the successful candidates? Briefly, why is a Libyan not appointed by the Libyan Department of Education for the purpose of supervising local training and training missions abroad, and also for supervising night schools, evening classes and teachers, especially those teachers whose salaries are paid by LATAS but they are attached to the Libyan Department of Education?

Lastly, but not least, what is the number of applications submitted by Libyans requesting study or training scholarships up to date, and what percentage of them is selected every year, or has been selected since training operations started?

These are a few of many substantial questions, the answering of which in a frank manner will be an effective contribution towards bringing rest to Libyan minds as to the fate of the funds which the American people are giving to the Libyan people through LATAS. The whole of our interest is, as a matter of fact, in the strengthening of the ties of Libyan-American friendship which are surrounded with vagueness and with sullen muteness, a thing which no single Libyan desires.

Note from page 1 -

"Box of the Universe" means: In Arab countries there is a sort of mobile apparatus which is very popular in age of childhood. Children, through a small window, look at various pictures showing famous legendry and actual Arab heroes and characters fighting in fields of battle, among other stories. However, all these are extremely exaggerated and they are nearer to fiction than to fact.

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